

The children usually walked to Primary, carrying the eggs to town which they traded for groceries to take home.

In the winter the family moved to town so the children could attend school. Each family had to pay the teacher, so their education was limited.

Mary was baptized on August 8th, by John Watkins and confirmed the same day by Bishop David Van Wagener.

She attended the Brigham Young Academy in 1889, 1890 and graduated from the Junior Department in May, 1891.

Her husband left for a mission to Germany on October 9th, 1891, just two weeks after they were married. While he was away she taught school for two years in the west wing of the old postoffice building.

During her life she held the following positions in the church, besides being the wife of a bishop for thirty-three years: first counselor in the MIA to president Mary Watkins, president for five years of the Midway Second ward Primary and first counselor to president Martha Bronson in the Second Ward Relief Society.

After her husband was released from serving as bishop of the Midway Second Ward they left Midway and moved to Salt Lake City where they both could work in the temple. She was not very well at this time but went to the temple as often as her health would permit.

On May 7, 1940, she died from a heart attack while preparing to go to the temple.

Children of Jacob Probst and Mary M. Huber:

Karl, married Carrie Wright;

Vernon, married Melba Duke;

Leah, died in childhood;

Estella, died in youth;

Stanley, died in infancy.

JOHN ULRICH AND SUSANNA GERTSCH PROBST

John Ulrich Probst, son of Ulrich Probst Sr., and Anna Barbara Kiener, was born October 18, 1860 at Habsstetten, Bern, Switzerland. He married Susanna Gertsch, December 18, 1891 in the Logan Temple. He died September 13, 1950 in Midway.

Susanna Gertsch Probst, a daughter of Conrad Gertsch Sr., and Margaretha or Margareta Gertsch (no relation) Gertsch, was born August 26, 1874 at Wengen, Bern, Switzerland.



John Probst came to Midway July 4, 1872 with his parents. They built a log house with a dirt roof up the Snake Creek. His schooling consisted of three years in Switzerland, some time in the old Midway School, and three winters in the German Hall. He also spent three months at the Brigham Young Academy in Provo.

He worked in the mountains chopping and hauling timber and cordwood for the mines in Park City. For about two and one-half years, he worked in the same business at Snyderville. Three years were spent in the white pines. A log cabin was built by John Buchler Sr. and himself. In March and April they would take their yoke of oxen and wagons and haul the wood to the mines. He also spent part of one summer hauling saw logs from Carabon Canyon to the Mill flat where the Snake Creek tunnel is now located. Bishop John Watkins operated a saw mill there.

In the spring of 1888, he homesteaded 160 acres of land near St. Anthony, Idaho. In the fall of 1891, he met Susanna Gertsch, who had just immigrated to Midway from Switzerland. They were married December 18, 1891 at the Logan Temple. He received a mission call to Switzerland on the 9th of April, 1895. He wrote the following from his life's story—"I sold two beef cows for \$16.00 each, a young five-year old horse, weighing 1100 pounds for \$45.00, another for \$25.00. I received \$75.00 from Lundeen for letting him in on the Probst ditch. All told, my wife and I had about \$400.00 for my mission and it took over \$100.00 to take me to my field of labor. All then that I had left was \$300.00."

"Among the most interesting towns I visited while on my mission, was Oberwangen. There I visited the old house we had once lived in where the gospel message had been brought to us by such men as Karl G. Maeser, Willard Richards, Theodore Brad-

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ley, John Huber and others. It was also the place where we had been baptized and had gone to school.

"Also I visited relatives of my wife in the Bernis Oberland. They were both surprised and happy to see me. It had been only four years since my wife had emigrated."

Farming and peddling was the occupation of John Ulrich Probst. Each Friday he would deliver fresh produce, eggs and chickens to the housewives of Park City. They had a big garden, kept a big flock of chickens, his wife churned butter. Thursday was a busy day, cleaning chickens, churning butter, gathering eggs and helping to prepare the load. His wife was up at 3 a.m. on Fridays preparing the breakfast, warming the big rock (in the winter) for his feet, while he harnessed the team. She also kept a hot meal waiting in the evenings upon his return, which was often at 10 or 11 p.m.

Susanna Gertsch Probst attended the schools of Switzerland. Her earliest recollections were helping to herd cows on the Alps, arising early and making lace to sell to help with their support before going to school.

In 1890, missionaries brought the gospel to her family. It was a glorious time for them, and November 1890 she was baptized in a cold stream of water by Conrad Abegglen. The first song she remembers learning was, "Oh Babylon, O Babylon, We Bid Thee Farewell, We're Going to the Mountains of Ephraim to Dwell." That is just what they did. The dear home that they loved was auctioned off, which provided money for their emigration to Zion.

The voyage over was a trying one, the family being seasick all the way. They arrived, however, in September 1891, and came straight to Midway.

The following children were all born in the family home:

Clarence, married Mary Christensen;

Parley, married Emma Christensen;

Francis, married Alice Galli;

Nephi, married Elizabeth Beck;

Reed, married Cleopha Richards;

Laurel, married Vernon Nelson;

Ruby, married Glen Rex;

Owen, married Rosetta Bernards;

Leah, married Arthur Godfrey;

David, married Vivienne Stevens;

Geneva, married Erni Cook;

Susanna Gertsch Probst has been a member and visiting teacher in Relief Society

State Presbytery & dairymen

all of her life, has received many awards for her faithfulness and perfect attendance records. She was also a faithful Primary teacher for several years.

John Ulrich and Susanna Gertsch Probst celebrated their golden wedding anniversary with their eleven children present. Four of their children fulfilled missions. At the time of their marriages all of the children were eligible for temple recommends and were married in the Temples.

NEPHI PROBST



Bishop of Midway Second Ward 1935-1937.

Nephi Probst, the son of John Ulrich and Susanna Gertsch Probst, was born June 17, 1900 at Midway, Wasatch County, Utah. His parents were converts to the gospel from Switzerland. They did not know each other until they met in Midway.

He herded sheep, worked at the mine and studied the gospel and planned to fill a mission. When 19 years of age he received his missionary call to the Northern States. He labored in Chicago, Illinois. Later he was made Conference President and transferred to Milwaukee, Wisconsin. His joys in missionary work were great. As Paul of old, he also tasted the bitter as well as the sweet. On one occasion he was severely beaten by one of his contacts.

While in Milwaukee he met Elizabeth Beck, also a missionary. She and her companion were released from their mission the same day he was, in November, 1922, and traveled home together. This was the beginning of a romance which ended in marriage December 21, 1923. To them were born ten children:

Verle, married Kenneth Young;

Grant, married Barbara McAfee;

Faye, married Hyrum Bates;

Boyd, married Elena Graham;
Emery, married Marjorie Buckley;
Geneil, married Alvin Zufelt;
Evan, married Bonita Talbot;
Kyle;
Paul;
Janice.

He has served faithfully in many church positions. He was president of the YMMIA from November, 1922 to December, 1923 when he became Presiding Elder at Keetley where he served until June, 1924. He was counselor in the Stake Sunday School to L. C. Montgomery September 11, 1927 to September 8, 1935. He was Senior President of the 96th Quorum of Seventies, which position his father held previously.

In 1935 he was called to be the Bishop of the Midway Second Ward. During this time the church grounds were landscaped and beautified; pine trees were brought from the head of Provo River and planted. He served as Bishop for two years until September, 1937 when he was asked by President H. Clay Cummings to be second counselor in the Stake Presidency with Don Clyde as first counselor and Charles Broadbent, stake clerk.

Ten years later when Don Clyde moved to Provo, he was chosen as first counselor to President Cummings on November 2, 1947, which position he held until the release of the Stake Presidency November 16, 1958. He has spent many happy hours of church service administering to the sick, contacting the young people, and building up a friendship among his associates which is priceless.

He had studied to be a railroad clerk; but when he returned from his mission, he bought a piece of ground to farm and became a dairy farmer. He was also a miner. For several years he was Secretary of the Midway Waterworks and also County Weed Supervisor. During the Second World War he served as Chairman of the Wasatch County War Board, having charge of the rationing of gas, machinery, etc.

One of the outstanding events of his life was an invitation to attend the dedication of the Los Angeles Temple March 8, 1959. President J. Reuben Clark Jr., and Elder Henry D. Moyle escorted him and President Cummings to the stand at the opening session of the dedication.

ULRICH PROBST SR., AND ANNA BARBARA KIENER PROBST



Ulrich Probst Sr., son of John Ulrich Probst and Anna Barbara Hess. Born April 23, 1838, Lutzelschick, Bern, Switzerland. Died January 25, 1923, Midway.

Anna Barbara Kiener, daughter of Niklaus Kiener and Rosina Hofer Kiener. Born June 17, 1831, in Bolligen, Bern, Switzerland. Died May 11, 1909, Midway.

Probst is an official German surname. (Surname book and Racial History). History informs us that names did not become hereditary until after the time of the Norman Conquest, 1066. Even in the 11th and 12th centuries hereditary names were uncommon. It was not until the 14th and 15th centuries that the lesser people assumed the dignity of surnames as such.

The following incident, taken from the life of Ulrich Probst while he was an LDS missionary in Germany (Strassburg) 1888-91, shows the respect in which the surname Probst was held. Ulrich Probst while doing active missionary work in company with two older elders was arrested, a usual occurrence in that period of missionary history. When the magistrate heard the name Probst read, he ordered him freed out of respect for his name, further explaining that because of official service rendered in the past by one Probst, a city ordinance had been passed prohibiting imprisonment of anyone bearing that surname.

Ulrich was the son of John Ulrich Probst (1789-1869) and Anna Barbara Hess (1789-1872). By trade his father was a tailor. Ulrich acquired a common school education according to Swiss law. His environment was strictly puritanical. Following his common

school education he served four years as an apprentice in his father's shop. This work proved exacting for while on duty Ulrich was compelled to hold a ball under his chin which indicated to his father whether or not he was attending to his job or looking at passers-by.

During the Franco-Prussian War in 1870, Ulrich served as a soldier in the Swiss Army. Among other duties while in the service, he was to make uniforms for the soldiers. He was a good sportsman and ranked as a leader among his associates in their pastimes and amusements. His favorite sports were cards (in the "Wirtschaft"), and "Horni-Nuss," similar to our present game of golf in the west, and "Chegli" corresponding to our game of bowling.

Like his parents, he too was a member of the Swiss Reformed Church. At the age of nineteen he married Anna Barbara Kiener, a school teacher, and to them were born the following children, nine sons and one daughter: Johannes, John Gottlieb, John Ulrich, Frederick, Jacob, Ernest, Johannes, Emil, Edward A., and Emma E. Probst. The last two were born after the family had emigrated to America.

With increased understanding of the Mormon faith came increased friendship for its propagators. When Elders Karl G. Maeser and Willard Richards brought the message of Mormonism to Oberwangen, the family welcomed them heartily and offered them their home for the first cottage meeting. Subsequently, on January 14, 1869, Ulrich was baptized and confirmed a member of the LDS Church.

The record shows that Nicholas Sommer performed the baptism and confirmation. Shortly after he was ordained an elder and made president of the Scherli Branch. In this position he was instrumental in converting Fred Haueter I and family, also John Sonderegger and family who later emigrated to America.

Along with an increased understanding of the gospel, the spirit of gathering took possession of Ulrich and his family. By means of savings, and a small inheritance, they emigrated to America and settled in Midway. Emigrating with them were the Buhler, Ulrich Rohner, and Haney families, who also took passage on the steerage class. Edward Schonfeld, a released president of the Swiss-German Mission had charge of the emigrants during the journey. The company

arrived July 4, 1872, in Salt Lake City. Ulrich had but five dollars left at that time with which to establish himself and family.

Through the influence of John Huber of Midway, the president of the Swiss-German Mission, the family was induced to settle in Midway. They were met at Salt Lake City by Sister Mary Huber, wife of the president, Brother Jake Burgener, and Christian Abegglen with a one-horse team and one ox team. It took three days to make the trip to Midway.

After an unsuccessful attempt at homesteading, in 1875, in the Southeast part of town, he went to Snake Creek where he acquired a Squatter's right. Here he lived during the summers improving the land, and then returned to the town for the winters. While at Snake Creek his only daughter was bitten by a tarantula, and died August 24, 1884.

In a religious capacity Ulrich served as the secretary of the 96th Quorum of Seventies, later as one of the Seven Presidents. He also led the German choir in Midway. In 1888, he was called to fill a mission to the Swiss-German territory. On his return in the spring of 1891 he married a plural wife, Rosina Schaub, of Basel, Switzerland, whom he had met and converted during his mission. As a result of this marriage he was disfellowshipped, but later was re-instated. Disposing of his property in Midway he fled with other polygamous refugees of the Church to Mexico for safety. Later he returned to the United States and settled in the San Luis Valley, in Colorado, where he successfully pursued the occupation of farming. From his second marriage there were four sons and three daughters.

In 1912, because of domestic difficulties, Ulrich returned to Midway where he died January 25, 1923, in full fellowship with his Church. Anna Barbara Kiener, the first wife of Ulrich Probst, was born June 17, 1831, in Bolligen, Bern, Switzerland. She was the fifth child of Niklaus Kiener and Rosina Hofer. From her father's family of nine, only one (a brother, Christian) other than herself joined the Church.

Her father was a farmer, and among her early recollections was the task of carrying fruit to the market. She acquired sufficient education to qualify as a teacher in the schools of Switzerland, which profession she practised until her marriage in 1857. The following excerpt from her son, John Gott-